

Kansas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant

Purpose

On December 21, 2004, the [Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004](#) authorized the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide state assistance for specialty crops. Under Section 101 of the statute, the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to “make grants to States for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2009 to be used by State departments of Agriculture solely to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.”

Specialty crop block grant funds can be requested to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

Examples of “enhancing the competitiveness” of specialty crops includes, but is not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, “buy local” programs, increased consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, and developing cooperatives.

Eligibility

Commissions, public entities, associations, and/or nonprofit organizations that represent Kansas specialty agricultural and food producers are eligible to apply. Individual producers are not eligible to apply. Applicants must be a legal entity and have the legal capacity to contract. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide a cash match for their projects.**

Types of Grants and Eligible Activities

Grant Funds Available

FY 2007 July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 Total available grant funds = \$102,000

FY 2008 July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008 Total available grant funds = \$102,000

Division of funds will be based on quality of proposals as recommended during the grant selection process.

Range of Grant Funding Requests

Minimum - \$5,000 Maximum - \$20,000

Timeline

June 12, 2007 Announcement of grant program

July 16 Applications due to KDA

August 17 Internal KDA review and recommendation

August 24 Advisory Group review and recommendation

September 30 Contracts issued

Project work may commence once contract is signed by both parties.

June 30, 2008 Project work must be completed

Project Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by KDA and KDOC staff and by an advisory committee established by KDA for reviewing grant proposals. Using the recommendations of both parties, applications will be submitted to Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky, who will make the final awards. **These applications do not need to be professionally written; the content of the proposal is more important than the style in which it is written.**

Criteria for Selection

- Project has clear identifiable goals and demonstrates tangible benefits for the industry segment and for Kansas's overall food and agriculture economy.

- Project increases the sales of Kansas grown or manufactured food and agriculture products, including

- o Increasing the volume of products sold
- o Increasing the price of products sold
- o Increasing the market share of products sold

Please note that the size of the industry will be taken into consideration. For example, a \$10,000 increase in sales could have a more significant impact in a smaller industry than a larger one.

- Project addresses a challenge or opportunity, fits into the overall marketing plan of the industry sector, and adds to its overall marketing strategy.
- Project has clear criteria by which to evaluate the success of the project. Goals and expected outcomes are verifiable, measurable and realistic for the scope of the project.
- Project has a high probability of achieving its goals.
- Project has strong industry support.
- Project will benefit many companies in the industry sector.

Contract Requirements

Contracts will specify milestones, outcomes, deliverables and a payment schedule for these deliverables. Awardees must submit an intermediate report halfway through project work and a final report following project completion. Both reports are due before final payment. The applicant must be able to document expenditures of grant funds.

Application Process

Please see attached instructions. Applications must be submitted in hard copy postmarked no later than July 14, 2007. An email version of the application, preferably in Microsoft Word format, as well as a hard copy is required. Applications can also be sent by fax on the application due date. Mail completed applications to:

Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky
109 SW 9th St.
Topeka, KS 66612-1280

Eligible Specialty Crops

Commonly recognized fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture) are not listed, but are eligible specialty crops.

Algae
Chickpeas
Christmas trees
Cocoa
Coffee
Cut flowers
Dry edible beans
Dry peas
Foliage
Fruit grapes for wine
Garlic
Ginger root
Ginseng
Herbs
Honey
Hops
Kava
Lavender
Lentils
Maple syrup
Mushrooms
Peppermint
Potatoes
Seaweed
Spearment
Sweet Corn
Vanilla
Vegetable seeds

Ineligible Commodities

Cotton and cottonseed
Feed crops such as barley, corn, hay, oats, sorghum grain, millet, alfalfa
Flaxseed
Food grains such as rice, rye, wheat
Livestock and dairy products, including eggs
Marine or fresh water aquaculture
Oil crops such as peanut, soybean, sunflower, safflower, rapeseed, canola, mustard seed, borage, evening primrose, etc.
Peanuts
Range grasses
Sod
Sugar beets
Sugarcane
Tobacco
Turf

APPLICATION COVER SHEET
KDA Specialty Crop Block Grant

Name of Organization:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Federal Tax ID #

Contact:

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Industry Sector and Specific Commodity/Food for Promotion: (e.g. Tree Fruit: Apricots)

Brief Project Description:

Project Title:

**Total Project
Cost: \$**

**Grant
Request:
\$**

**Cash
Match: \$**

**In-kind
Match: \$**

Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct and that I am legally authorized to sign and submit this application on behalf of this organization, which is legally eligible to enter into a grant contract.

Printed Name of Authorized Signatory Signature

Title Date